

on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks one of my district institutions received as part of Bill 3326, the "Department of Defense Appropriations Act for 2010."

Requesting Member: Congressman NATHAN DEAL

Bill Number: H.R. 3326

Account: O&M, Army Account

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: North Georgia College and State University

Address of Requesting Entity: North Georgia College & State University, The Military College of Georgia 82 College Circle, Dahlonega, GA 30597.

Description of Request: The DoD Language Transformation Roadmap requires language education for officers. This pilot establishes a cost efficient model for meeting this requirement. The hub concept provides for pre-commissioning language education rather than while on active duty, saving annual pay and allowances in excess of \$40K per year per officer. Following the three year pilot, state funding based on credit hour production begins, resulting in a sustainable language hub program. Initial investment is repaid in savings within three years of pilot completion and subsequently represents an annual cost savings in excess of \$2M.

CONGRATULATING ST. MARY'S
MERCY LIVONIA ON THEIR 50TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and pay tribute to the doctors, nurses, and the entire staff of St. Mary Mercy Livonia, as they celebrate 50 years of providing compassionate care to the citizens of my district.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia was built in the tradition of the Felician Sisters, who were founded by the Blessed Mary Angela in Warsaw, Poland in 1855 as a ministry of healing and service. Her selfless dedication to her fellow citizens played an influential role in the creation of the hospital.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia opened its doors in 1959 with 170 beds, 99 physicians and 300 employees and the hospital has developed extensively since its origin. Today, the hospital includes an innovative Our Lady of Hope Cancer Center, as well as a Heart & Vascular Center and an Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit. The hospital is an essential part of our community and continues to provide caring and comprehensive health care.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to say the hospital has received various honors over the years. In 2007, St. Mary Mercy Livonia received the HealthGrades 2007 Clinical Excellence Award for the third straight year. Last year, St. Mary Mercy Livonia was named a 100 Top Hospital for 2007 by Thomson Healthcare. Congratulations to the talented and erudite doctors, nurses and staff who work tirelessly to improve the lives of countless numbers of human beings every day.

St. Mary Mercy Livonia has had a long and distinguished history as a sanctuary for those who need quality care. I ask my colleagues to

join me in congratulating St. Mary Mercy Livonia on its 50th anniversary and venerating the institution's dedicated commitment to the community and our country.

HONORING MEXICO ON HER
INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 199th anniversary of Mexican Independence Day, which celebrates the historic independence of Mexico from Spanish rule. This momentous day is significant because it represents a sign of justice and equality—rights valued and protected in our great country of the United States. It represents the day when Mexico was able to begin its quest for freedom for the people of that beautiful and spirited country. Our two countries will continue to make sure that the rights of the people come first.

Mexican Independence Day is celebrated on the date that Father Miguel Hidalgo y Castillo, a priest in Dolores, Guanajuato, frustrated with Spanish rule, rang the church bell to gather the people of the town. Hidalgo ignited a fire in the listeners, thus starting Mexico's War of Independence, requesting that the people of Mexico join him in rising against Spanish rule. Just as the soldiers in the American Revolutionary War fought on behalf of our country, these courageous, patriotic men fought to gain the independence of their beloved Mexico. The war lasted 10 years, finally giving Mexico its independence in 1921. Now, this event known as Grito de Dolores or "Cry of Dolores" is joyfully celebrated every year on September 16 by Mexicans all over the world. The red, white, and green flag is proudly displayed on this day during festivities. The green represents independence, the white represents religion, and the red represents union. This occasion is celebrated with food, parties, and the Mexican president delivering the speech that rallied the people to fight for Mexican freedom.

El Centro Comunitario Mexicano, or as it is popularly known, CECOMEX, is one of the oldest active, not-for-profit organizations for Mexican Americans in New York City. It has worked independently as a community organization in East Harlem, catering to the needs of the Mexican American population established in the tri-state area, specifically the area of El Barrio. It is estimated that there are around 35,000 Mexican immigrants or Mexican descendants there. CECOMEX has been organizing Mexican Independence Day festivities since 1996, with attendance growing every year. I would like to commend Consul Ruben Beltran and Ambassador Arturo Sarukhán for their hard work on behalf of the country of Mexico.

Let's pay our respects to those courageous men who fought on behalf of Mexico to help position the country where it is today. I call upon my fellow Members Of Congress to join me in celebrating Mexican Independence Day in honor of all the Mexican immigrants and descendants, not only in my district, but throughout this great nation and world.

TRIBUTE TO FAMILY FARMS LIKE
J & J FARM IN AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 14, 2009

Mr. OLVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the continuing importance of family farming in America, well exemplified in my district by J & J Farm of Amherst, which marks its 100th anniversary this year, the same year of the 250th anniversary of the Town of Amherst. Family farming is a long and proud tradition in Massachusetts, and the positive community impact of these farms is as vital as ever. Family farms help maintain economically and socially vibrant rural communities. They serve to conserve and enhance our invaluable soil, water and wildlife habitat for future generations. Most important of all, they provide healthy, high-quality food for American families.

Because of the tremendous importance of family farms and rural communities to our nation and to western Massachusetts in particular, it is fitting that we should recognize the many years of hard work of farm proprietors, like the Waskiewicz family of J & J Farm.

Dimetro and Victoria Waskiewicz immigrated from southern Poland in 1895. Dimetro worked as a farm laborer in the North Amherst area for several years. By 1909 he had saved enough money to purchase a farm on Meadow Street in North Amherst from the Spear family. The original farm consisted of 40 acres with the Mill River running through the east side of the farm. Ten years later another 40 acres were added. Milk, tobacco and onions were the farm's main products.

Dimetro died at the early age of 43. His two eldest sons bought the farm from Victoria in 1930. Joseph and John Waskiewicz began the farm as it is now known, J & J Farm. Joe's son Joseph took over operations following John's retirement in 1970. Cucumbers, potatoes and milk became their main crops. Joseph Sr. retired in 1995 at the age of 86. The farm is now in its fourth generation: Joseph III and Michael now operate the farm with their father.

The past century has brought floods, hurricanes and droughts, but despite hardships and market changes the farm has continued to provide area residents with fresh produce and dairy products. J & J Farm is the last remaining dairy farm in Amherst. The farm operates a seasonal roadside stand that supplements the dairy products with sweet corn, another specialty.

We must sustain our rural communities so that future generations of family farmers, like the Waskiewicz family, will enjoy the dignity of a good day's work and the reward of seeing the tangible yield of their labors with the land and with livestock. It is my hope that future generations will maintain the tradition of family farming that the Waskiewicz family built at J & J Farm, and that America will sustain its family farms through the 21st century and beyond.